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Subject: Fwd: WAC meeting public comment 7/14/2021
From: paula levine <puzzpaula@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Jul 12, 2021 11:17 am
To: azetter@trinidad.ca.gov
Cc: Trinidad City Clerk <cityclerk@trinidad.ca.gov>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: paula levine <puzzpaula@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Jul 12, 2021 at 12:51 AM
Subject: WAC meeting public comment 7/14/2021
To: <azetta@trinidad.ca.gov>, paula levine <puzzpaula@gmail.com>

Past Trinidad City engineering reports consistently state that tapping into Springs and Creeks in the vicinity of Luffenholtz to supplement Trinidad's water supply is as susceptible to drought as Luffenholtz.

Past reports recommend HBMWD as a drought resistant option.

The City Council has mandated the Water Advisory Committee (WAC) to analyze potential options of water sources.

The Trinidad Rancheria is in the process of obtaining water from HBMWD.

Cooperating with the Rancheria will save an enormous amount of time and energy IF Trinidad decides HBMWD is the best option.

An inexpensive updated feasibility study of hooking into HBMWD must be authorized by the Council to enable WAC to accomplish its analysis of options. This authorization must be done in a timely manner to dovetail with the project in progress. Time is running out. (refer to Dwight Miller's report).

To save time WAC is advised to call a special meeting before the Council sets its next agenda in order to focus on a discussion about advising the Council to authorize a HBMWD feasibility study.

Authorizing a feasibility study does not preclude WAC from continuing to analyze the Alternate Springs and Creeks option. Tapping into the headwaters of Mill Creek will involve a State permit process estimated to take five to seven years (refer to Bryce Kenny's report) and may or may not be allowed. Also in Bryce Kenny's report is the mention of a verbal agreement with Brent Twoomy to allow access to the old Mill Creek water department site to supplement Luffenholtz in the event Luffenholtz can not supply Trinidad with an adequate amount of water. This option would not need a State permit. I spoke at length with Brent on site after he spoke to Bryce and he clearly stated that if Luffenholtz was very low, Mill Creek would be dry. He realized pumping water out of Mill Creek would not be a realistic option during emergency drought conditions. I agree. I have riparian rights to Mill Creek. It's in my backyard and I know how low it has been getting towards fall in recent years.

Working with HBMWD has been considered by Trinidad many times over the last fifty years. The surrounding communities of Eureka, McKinleyville, Blue Lake, Manila and others have been satisfied customers of HBMWD for over sixty years, paying equal or less rates than Trinidad customers. The equal rates include sewer services.

What's our problem? Trinidad has a long history of having very vocal media savvy citizens afraid of HBMWD. They equate having a robust source of water with unrestrained development. Note that after sixty years of dependable, clean, drought resistant service, Eureka has not turned into LA, and Arcata and Blue Lake have not become Riverside.

Trinidad retains control of the water that enters its facility. The Planning Commission, rugged terrain in the Sphere of Influence, lack of sewer service and other environmental factors limit development. These are issues for public education and discussion.

In the meantime, the City must make the sensible decision to enable WAC to explore our water options and make decisions based on accurate data and professional advice. **The City must authorize the HBMWD feasibility study as soon as possible.** Too much time has already been wasted.

If the community wants to explore the Alternate Springs and Creeks Plan, its feasibility needs to be examined by independent engineers and hydrologists. The logistics of rights of way, state regulations, and the complex costs involved in setting up the system and ongoing maintenance needs to be evaluated while the HBMWD study is being done.

More advice: do not ignore this letter.

Thank you for your time,
:) Paula Levine
Mill Creek Lane
30 year homeowner and water customer